

Wanderers back down to earth!

AFTER last Saturday's sensational 3-1 victory over Newport County in the F.A. Cup first round and the news of a home tie with Peterborough in round two, Wycombe Wanderers come down to earth again tomorrow (Saturday). They travel to Leatherhead in the Rothmans Isthmian League, Division One (K.O. 2 p.m.) in a bid to catch up on their already considerable fixture back-log.

The Blues are seven games adrift of current leaders Dulwich Hamlet — that's a possible 21 points. They are ten points behind Dulwich at present and nine behind second placed Bishop's Stortford. Hendon, however, are also well placed with four games in hand over the leaders, only two points behind.

Wanderers will be in for a difficult task tomorrow at Leatherhead. The Tanners are unbeaten in their last nine league outings and Wycombe are bound to find the game something of an anti-climax after Saturday's Cup exploits.

They will, of course, again be without centre forward Keith Searle, who is out for ten weeks. Keith had an operation on his knee ligament on Saturday. Wanderers are likely, therefore, to field the same side that beat Newport.

Skipper Larry Pritchard, and Mick Holifield are included in the England squad of 16 named

to Valletta, Malta on Monday and then return to Merthyr Tydfil for another international against Wales the following Saturday. The squad is training at Bisham Abbey on Sunday.

Leatherhead will be at full strength tomorrow and one man who will be anxious to bring about Wycombe's downfall is Peter McGillicuddy who was with the Blues for the first three weeks of the season. He was substitute against Barking and Bromley but didn't come on either time and left to join Leatherhead soon afterwards.

McGillicuddy plays in midfield alongside Barry Webb, who is joint top scorer with Chris Kelly. They have eight goals apiece. One of the Tanners most dangerous forwards, Barry Friend, is no longer with the club, having turned professional with Fulham a month ago.

Their strike power though has been increased with the return

of Pete Lavers, the centre forward, who began the season with Slough and then rejoined his former club.

Leatherhead's most recent result was a 1-1 draw at Kingstons on Saturday but recently they beat Dulwich Hamlet 1-0 at home.

Wanderers will be on a "double" tomorrow, as they convincingly beat Leatherhead 2-0 at home in August. At that stage, it was the Blues' fourth win on the trot. Tony Horseman and Keith Searle were the Wycombe marksmen.

DIVISION 1 (Leading positions)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	C	D	Pen
Dul H	26	15	7	4	45	20	52	10	0	0
Bis S	26	15	6	5	50	18	51	2	0	0
Hendon	22	15	5	2	38	9	50	1	0	0
Wyc Wan	19	13	3	3	46	20	42	0	0	0
L'head	20	12	3	5	44	18	39	2	0	0
Toot & M	26	11	6	9	38	34	39	2	0	0
Hayes	19	10	4	5	34	19	34	2	0	0
Ley'stone	21	9	6	6	30	20	33	1	0	0
Oxford C	25	7	11	7	24	32	32	3	0	0
Enfield	22	9	4	9	28	24	31	2	0	0

LOCAL SOCCER suffered badly from the freezing weather on Friday night and Saturday with many matches called off due to frozen pitches. There were many disgruntled Wycombe people at Leatherhead on Saturday where the referee waited until half an hour before kick-off to declare the ground unfit (writes Stuart Earp).

Four coach-loads of Blues supporters made the two-hour trip to Fetcham Grove as well as those who had used up valuable petrol to make the journey in their own cars. Their annoyance was understandable.

Referee R. S. Lewis inspected the pitch at 11 o'clock and decided to wait for a further look later on. "The top was thawing although it was still hard underneath," he told me.

"I didn't want to call it off then as I thought there was still a chance the game could be played. The sun was out and I thought the turf may soften up a little. I held another inspection at 1.30 and had to call it off."

Several Wycombe fans travelled to nearby Walton and Hersham, who were playing

Woking in the London Senior Cup. But that match was abandoned with the score at 1-1, after 70 minutes.

As well as the inconvenience of travelling to Leatherhead for nothing, the postponement leaves Wanderers still trailing badly behind with their Rothmans Isthmian League, Division One fixtures. The top three — Dulwich Hamlet, Bishop's Stortford and Hendon — were all involved in the London Senior Cup and therefore the positions have not changed.

The Blues are still seven games adrift of Dulwich and Stortford and three behind Hendon. They will fall even further behind on Saturday as they will again miss the league programme. They have three

players on international duty for the England v. Wales game at Merthyr Tydfil — Larry Pritchard, Mick Holifield and Dylan Evans. Instead, they play Ayeley at Loakes Park in a friendly.

Marlow's second attempt to play Chesham in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, second round, was again to no avail. The teams were due to meet a fortnight ago but the match had to be put back due to Chesham's involvement in the Amateur Cup. Saturday's game became another victim of the frost when the referee called it off at 1 p.m. after the players had protested about the conditions.

Two local Hellenic League matches were played, Burnham notching a 5-0 victory and

Ernest Turners crashing by the same margin at home to Hazells. Former Turners man Dick Ives notched a hat-trick. Princes Risborough were not so fortunate. Their pitch at Windsor Playing Fields was frozen solid. All in all, eight Hellenic games were called off.

The Wycombe League escaped somewhat lightly with only 12 matches out of 34 postponed. One club, Chalfont Wasps, were really unlucky. They were leading 3-0 away to Wycombe United but the referee called the match off after 59 minutes. Victory would have been most welcome for bottom club Wasps, who have lost six out of their seven senior section matches this term, scoring only five goals in the process.